

South Dakota State Penitentiary

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

The South Dakota State Penitentiary is located in northern Sioux Falls, occupying approximately 30 acres. First constructed as a territorial prison in 1881, it became the South Dakota State Penitentiary when South Dakota was granted statehood in 1889. Though much of the original buildings remain, numerous structural changes have occurred over the years.



A view of the West Hall cellblock (left) and the Old Warden's House (right) now used for parole offices.

The Warden of the Penitentiary is Doug Weber.



Exterior view of the Redfield Trusty Unit.

Facility

The main penitentiary facility contains three housing units.

Inmates were housed at the G. Norton Jameson Annex beginning in February 1993. The Jameson Annex contains two housing units within a secure perimeter and a minimal security unit located outside the perimeter fence.

A minimal security unit, the Redfield Trusty Unit, is located in Redfield, South Dakota.

Mission

The primary mission of the South Dakota State Penitentiary is the protection of the public by safely incarcerating dangerous offenders. The prison also provides opportunities for work, education and counseling to assist inmates in preparing for release and reintegration into society as productive citizens.

Assignments

Inmates are assigned to units within the Penitentiary and Jameson Annex according to criteria designed to rate the inmate's current needs, past record, present sentence and institutional behavior. Each housing unit has a unit team consisting of a unit manager, case manager, and correctional counselor. This staff serves as the resource persons for the inmate. The unit staff is responsible for all casework on each individual inmate as well as day-to-day management of the unit.

Inmate Employment

Inmate employment within the Penitentiary falls into two basic categories: Institutional Support and Prison Industries. Institutional support includes those employed in the kitchen, as clerks for various departments, as cell hall orderlies, and those working in the maintenance department. Prison Industries consists of several different industries: upholstery, printing, sign, decal, book bindery, braille unit, license plates, carpentry, machine shop, garments and data entry. All but the garment and data entry work is done at the Penitentiary. Most of the work is done for government agencies.

Inmates assigned to Unit C of the Jameson Annex work outside the walls for various community organizations and on approved work release assignments.

Programs

Inmates are offered literacy, Adult Basic Education and General Educational Development (GED) classes. Treatment is offered for chemical dependency and for sex offenders.



The cellblock area of the Jameson Annex to the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

Statistics

Population: As of January 31, 2005

Penitentiary	808
Jameson Annex	407
Redfield Trusty Unit	95